

8o. LivestockPlus: supporting low emission development for livestock sector in Costa Rica and Colombia

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The LivestockPlus consortium was created to enable the development and implementation of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) for the cattle sector in Costa Rica and Colombia by providing technical support and generating critical information and guidelines necessary to identify appropriate mitigation options and support planning and policies for the scaling up of NAMAs. Costa Rica and Colombia are at intermediate and beginning stages of developing NAMAs for the cattle sector, respectively, and provide sites representative of larger areas of pasture systems in the region. This new initiative seeks to determine what the technical options for low emissions pasture development in Latin America are and how these can be scaled up using NAMAs and other policies. The main objectives of this new project are (1) to characterize the socioeconomic and biophysical contexts in which different cattle farmers operate; (2) quantify country specific greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from different cattle management options (pasture-based beef, dual-purpose and dairy cattle systems) at different levels of intensification; (3) identify cost-effective methods to monitor and collect information on changes in GHG emissions resulting from different management practices; and (4) build scientific and institutional capacity to develop and test mitigation actions within the target countries. Findings from this study will inform climate change mitigation policy decisions that will enable reduction of GHG emissions while ensuring gender inequalities do not worsen. LivestockPlus will use the two target countries as pilots to provide information while at the same time developing research products applicable to the NAMA discussions regionally and globally. By 2018, policy makers will use the information generated by LivestockPlus to support low emission development (LED) policy and its implementation in the cattle sector. If successfully adopted, scaled-up climate smart practices under a NAMA are estimated to reduce emissions by 10% and improve cattle productivity by 20% thus contributing towards both climate change mitigation and enhanced food security which are linked to climate change adaptation and risk management.

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